



Positive Schools Center

Created in 2015, the Positive Schools Center (PSC) works with school leaders, teachers, students, families, and communities to shift perspectives and transform the places where people teach, learn, and live. Here are some of the ways we impact the Baltimore region:

Intensive Climate Cohort

Support **25+ Baltimore City Public Schools** to transform their schools through:

- Leadership coaching
- Training school leaders & staff on the PSC's core strategies
- Supporting schools in implementing strategies through classroom feedback, collaborative planning, and mentorship

The PSC has provided more than **120** professional development sessions and **323** hours of in-school supports since July 2020.

Next Generation Scholars

Provides mentoring, group learning experiences, and individual case management for **29 Baltimore high school students** in **8 different schools**. Next Gen has a laser focus on college and career readiness and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL).

During the 2020-2021 school year, Next Gen has provided **249** individual student and parent supports, and **7** social justice and advocacy trainings, and **21** College and Career/SEL groups.

Community Schools

Full-time licensed social workers lead as coordinators to transform the PSC's **7 Community Schools** into resource hubs for students, families, and the greater communities. Through programming and partnerships, coordinators provide families with: food access; health and social supports; youth development; connections to affordable housing; and workforce opportunities. All Community Schools also participate in the Intensive Climate Cohort, to effect broader school change.

In SY 20-21, PSC Community Schools supported over **2,200** students, leveraged **147** distinct partnerships, and addressed immediate pandemic-related needs such as internet and computer access, utility crises, mental health referrals, financial supports, food access, virtual after-school time opportunities, and holiday gifts.



90% of Cohort schools had a decline in their suspensions compared to the previous year, many by at least 40%.

Adaptable Supports for Schools to Meet Changing Times:

PSC programming is constantly evolving to restoratively respond to schools and educators. Some of these strategies include:

- **Evolving Superwoman Syndrome:** New research to develop a 10-week, trauma-responsive, self-care support group for **30 Black Women School Leaders** beginning May 2021.
- **Free Community-Wide Workshops:** The PSC has facilitated bi-monthly, week-long series, which provided **815 educators** flexible, interactive learning during **28 sessions** that are restorative and reflect the challenges of virtual and hybrid learning.
- **Technology Support and Engagement:** Community Schools have made it possible for countless students to engage in virtual learning through addressing technology and connectivity barriers.

Our Model

The Positive Schools Center's work flows from a strong commitment to racial justice and equity focus. Collaborating with school teams, we approach school change through embedding restorative approaches, trauma-responsive strategies, social-emotional learning, and community voice into every aspect of the school community's routines, policies, and culture.



The PSC's success is told through our stories



Wolfe Street Academy

"Our PSC Community School Coordinator at Wolfe Street Academy has kept all of us focused on learning and faithfully implementing restorative and mindful practices throughout the school. Developing these characteristics in ourselves and our students, is a long-term and complex process."

~ Mark Gaither, Principal

Belair Edison Middle School Campus

"When I began my training with the PSC, I was skeptical, [but] even in the initial stages of implementation the impact has been enormous. Discipline referrals and out of school suspensions have been reduced. Restorative Approaches provide a framework to create a positive and enjoyable classroom and school community... Restorative Approaches does not take the place of teaching around self-discipline and creating a culture of high expectations; instead, Restorative Approaches provides a tool to help school staff achieve those positive characteristics."

~ Heather Stone, Assistant Principal

Gwynn Falls Elementary

"[The PSC] doesn't just give me answers, you ask me questions, you prompt, and you provoke, and you pull me in conversation. It is a thinking moment, and it allows me to be reflective of my practices, reflective of the decisions I have made - good, bad, or indifferent - and enabled me to approach it again. ...The one-on-one coaching that takes place is really helpful. It allowed me too see the data beyond assessments and numbers."

~Nikomar Mosley, Principal

Facilitating Collaboration across Baltimore

The PSC serves as a leader in the region's educational community advocating for students, schools, and the implementation of restorative educational practices. Some of the strategies we use include:

- **Chair of the Baltimore School Climate Collaborative**, a monthly convening of more than 60 entities including City Schools, local government, educational non-profits, community advocates, and philanthropic organizations.
- **Advocacy and Policy Initiatives** at the state and local levels with the goal of instituting racially and socially just, restorative, and trauma-responsive practices in all educational settings.
- **Consulting and Training** for a wide range of groups including police, Teacher-Certification Programs (Teach for America, Urban Teachers, MICA), City Schools, and organizations (Safe Streets, Outward Bound, Y of Central MD).

